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## The Trend in Finance

**Late Rally on Covering Offsets Previous Declines of Week; As Crop-Moving Time Begins Money Turns Easier**

AS AN indicator of future business conditions, the stock market last week was as efficacious as a thermometer in a pot of boiling water. The fluctuating prices were significant only in so far as they reflected technical changes in the temperature of the internal organization of the market place itself.

After much ado in the matter, precipitate declines during the most of the week, followed by a robust rally, not price changes on the average were slight. As the market closed on Wednesday The Tribune's average of thirty representative industrial stocks was at the lowest level quoted thus far in 1921. By 3 o'clock Friday, the average was 1.67 points higher and many particularly active stocks had gained five points.

The change from falling to rising quotations originated out of the very nature of speculation itself, rather than from some news event in the outside world. The downward swing lasted three weeks and before Thursday's moderate rally the decline had been interrupted for six days. The short interest kept piling up, with an increasing number of stocks lending at a premium and the market was in what Wall Street calls an oversold condition. Only a spark was required to set afire a flame of recovery. The declaration of regular dividends by General Electric and Railway Steel Spring, the reported improved tone in the steel industry, the striking further betterment in fundamental credit conditions and marked strength in cotton quotations were elements that helped to supply talking points to those who felt impelled to take profits on the short side of the market.

Traditionally, the public is supposed to be inclined toward the view that prices are going up. After sustained declines outsiders abstain from speculating for a time and periods of dullness, such as the market has been passing through, ensue. True enough, during downward swings, profits are to be made out of falling quotations, but short selling belongs mainly to professional speculators who understand the intricacies of the process of selling what they do not possess. This is a time, however, when precedent is ignored and, though the public is for the most part out of the market, an exceptionally large number of outsiders have been speculating through short selling.

Before the recovery rally, which had withstood the selling pressure to which the industrialists succumbed, began early last week to participate in the slump, despite the publication of July earnings of many carriers which revealed substantial improvement in net earnings as a result of decreased expenditures. Moreover, the House of Representatives adopted the funding bill, embracing the Harding plan for aiding the railroads, but it was indicated that the Senate was disinclined toward quick action on the measure.

There was a time during the martial days when the signing of peace between the United States and Germany would have thrilled the nation enormously, but the event itself was accepted as a mere routine occurrence last week. The financial markets ignored the consummation, which had been fairly well discounted. Nevertheless, the actual signing constitutes a landmark in history and on the economic side marks an important step toward normalcy.

Although normally this is the season of the year when the interior of the country begins to draw upon New York for funds to be used in helping the farmer harvest his crops and start them on the way to the world markets, the movement thus far has failed to show in the local banking position. Evidently the interior will not call upon New York as heavily as it has in recent years. On the other hand, it is possible that the flow of funds to the interior is proceeding normally, but its effects are being counteracted by currents moving in the opposite direction. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York in its statement of condition last week, revealed a large gain through the gold settlement fund in its operations with other Reserve banks; whereas, there were any pronounced drift of funds to the interior it would have been reflected in a substantial loss. The bankers have been holding all along that the crop moving season's financial requirements would be met without any difficulty whatever this year because of the much strengthened banking position generally. Moreover, the amount of money required to move crops is much less than it has been in other years as a result of the shrinkage of market values.

Last week the pressure upon lending institutions here was lifted and Wall Street again enjoyed a period of moderate ease in the money market. At the Stock Exchange brokers seeking funds to finance speculative and investment commitments obtained accommodation as low as 5 per cent for call loans, while in the outside market business was done on a 4 per cent basis. The 6 per cent rate at the exchange was the lowest since August 2. Time funds were in more liberal supply also and some small loans for short periods were arranged on a 5% per cent basis. Despite the present easier condition of money the banking opinion is that in view of the worldwide demand for capital funds and banking credit it is too early to look for any permanent relaxation. As liquidation of banking loans continues, the principal factor in improving the fundamental credit position is the steady influx of gold from abroad. Between January 1 and July 1 of this year the gold stock of the Federal Reserve banks increased \$102,601,000, or nearly 20 per cent, and the metal is still coming in by almost every steamship.

One of the most interesting aspects

## Transactions Last Week in Listed Stocks

### Summary of Stock Exchange Dealings

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STOCKS	Last week	Week before	Year ago	January 1 to date	
				1921	1919
Railroad stocks	558,000	398,100	507,500	22,650,400	36,948,200
Other stocks	2,521,900	1,829,250	2,209,650	89,747,300	114,455,000
All stocks	3,079,900	2,227,350	2,717,150	112,397,700	151,403,200

BONDS	Last week	Week before	Year ago	January 1 to date	
				1921	1920
U. S. government bonds	\$26,147,000	\$26,563,000	\$30,296,000	\$1,232,096,000	\$1,607,453,000
Other bonds	6,361,000	5,414,000	6,400,000	335,471,000	501,324,000
Railroad bonds	10,643,000	10,054,000	10,384,000	431,372,000	482,284,000
All bonds	41,151,000	42,031,000	47,080,000	1,999,439,000	2,611,061,000

83	Mar	23	67	Aug	26	7	do pf	1500	72	67	67	5/4
65 1/2	Jan	6	28 1/8	Aug	27	1	Amer Agr Chem	3800	32	28 1/8	28 1/8	3/4
54	Jan	7	53	Aug	16	1	do pf	300	68	53	63	1
54	Feb	23	46 1/2	Aug	27	1	Amer Bank	200	50	50	50	1/2
48 1/2	May	10	43 1/2	Jan	11	3	do pf	300	47 1/2	47	47	1/2
51	Feb	15	25 1/4	June	23	1	Amer Best Sugar	200	23 1/4	27 1/4	27 1/4	1
63 1/2	May	2	29 1/8	Aug	10	1	Amer Bosch Man	4000	33 1/8	30	32 1/4	3/4
33 3/4	Jan	29	23	Aug	27	1	Amer Can	1000	23	23	23	1/2
83	Jan	20	76 1/2	June	25	7	do pf	800	77 1/2	79	79 1/4	1
129 1/2	May	2	115 1/4	Jan	17	12	Amer Car & Edy	5000	122 1/2	110 1/2	122	+ 1/2
114	Feb	23	108	May	23	7	do pf	203	111	110	111 1/2	+ 1/2
29	Jan	29	29	Aug	27	1	do pf	100	29	29	29	1
23 1/2	Jan	20	15 1/8	June	23	1	Amer Cotton Oil	600	15 1/8	16	16 1/4	1
67	Apr	26	35 1/2	July	5	1	do pf	100	39	39	39	1/4
8 1/4	Jan	11	4 1/4	Aug	11	1	Amer Drug Sm	1200	4 1/2	4 1/4	4 1/4	1
113 1/2	May	6	113 1/2	Aug	11	1	Amer Express	500	113 1/2	113	113 1/2	1
13 1/2	May	18	8	Aug	14	1	Amer H & L	1000	10 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2	1/2
57 1/4	Mar	18	40 1/2	Feb	2	1	do pf	1000	47 1/4	45 1/8	47 1/8	1/4
59 1/2	May	2	42	Jan	25	5	Amer Ice	600	53 1/2	52	52	1 1/2
59 1/2	Apr	26	57	Jan	26	6	do pf	60	61	61	61	1/2
53 1/4	Mar	6	21 1/4	Aug	23	1	Amer Inter Chem	5600	28 1/4	29 1/4	29 1/4	1
11 1/4	Apr	22	7 1/4	Aug	23	1	Amer-La Fra Fire E	700	8	7 1/4	8	1
62 1/2	Jan	31	17	Aug	26	1	Amer Linsed	1200	18 1/2	17	18 1/4	3/4
29 1/2	Jan	29	25 1/2	Aug	22	7	do pf	300	42	42	42	+ 2 1/2
9 1/2	Jan	23	8 1/2	Aug	26	6	Amer Locomotive	1000	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	1/2
107 1/4	Feb	26	98 1/4	June	20	7	do pf	200	103	103	103	+ 2 1/2
73 1/4	Mar	7	66 1/4	Jan	6	4	Amer Radiator	100	68 1/2	68 1/2	68 1/2	1
10	Jan	7	3	Aug	25	1	Amer Safety Razor	2000	4	3 1/4	3 1/4	1/2
10	Jan	20	3	Aug	25	1	do pf	100	3	3	3	1/2